



**SnowTRAC
Advisory Board Meeting
Teleconference**
May 26th, 2005, 2:00 p.m.
Atwood Building
550 W. 7th Ave., Ste. 1380
Anchorage, Alaska

Call into conference center @1:57 p.m.
Meeting brought to order by Samantha at 2:04 p.m.

Board Members Present:

- ◆ Ken Lancaster –Soldotna
- ◆ JR Malesic –Anchorage
- ◆ Eric Morris –White Mountain
- ◆ Andy Morrison –Girdwood/Talkeetna
- ◆ Mark Wilke –Juneau
- ◆ Myles Yerkes –Skwentna

Staff Present:

- ◆ Margaret Brodie –Chief, Admin. & Grants
- ◆ Samantha Carroll –Trails Coordinator
- ◆ Dennis Heikes –Mat-Su Superintendent
- ◆ Michaela Phillips –Admin. Clerk II

Board Members Absent:

- ◆ Greg Barclay –Soldotna
- ◆ Marianne Beckham –Anchorage
- ◆ Frank Woods –Dillingham

Welcome

Introductions of members and staff.

Snowmobile Trail Grant Procedures

- Open Application Period.
- Applications reviewed by ASP. Those that meet requirements are sent to SnowTRAC board members to review and score.
- Board members review and score grant applications.
- Board meets. ASP leads scoring procedures during the meeting. Members report scores and discuss **the applications**.
- **Board members report application scores and make funding recommendations to ASP.**
- ASP tallies scores. Ranks applications and awards grants to those within funding parameters.

*Allot enough time for board members to sufficiently review each application in order to be prepared when the board meets to **report scores for grant applications**.

Grooming Pool Pilot Update

SnowTRAC approved \$60,000 for the Grooming Pool Pilot. Funds were distributed as grants by the Mat-Su Parks office. Funds were granted to local clubs, organizations and businesses that have been involved in grooming these trails in past years. The process was made easy; Parks solicited for grooming bids, applicants provided proposals, which included trail maps and budgets, funds were then granted. The area office managed the funds to allow for area wide grooming with an emphasis on popular trails. The idea was that ASP would retain the ability to move funds around within the area as needed. A goal of the pilot is to have flexibility with funding, which allows funds to move to areas where there is more snow accumulation.

- Lake Louise received \$4,000. Group paid a local groomer for the initial run. Then went out with their own machines with drags, kept trails in good condition, maintained as needed.
- Willow Trails received \$35,000.
- Big Lake Chamber of Commerce received \$18,000. Paid a local groomer to work with them, done by 3rd week in February.
- Curry Ridge received \$21,000.
- Hatcher Pass received \$19,000.

PRO

1. System worked when funds not needed in one area were available for transfer to another area with less funding and higher need.
2. Potential for continuous trail system starting in Big Lake and finishing in Petersville.
3. Some trail systems interconnected with grooming in some circumstances.
4. Grooming Pool works with local clubs, organizations and businesses that have been involved in grooming these trails in past years.
5. Pool allows for employment opportunities within the private sector.
6. Formed a partnership with the Borough.
7. Parks office was able to administer due to availability of full-time, year-round staff.

CON

1. Not enough funds if everyone groomed as much as they wanted to groom.
2. More work for the local ASP office.
3. Not a lot of money available.
4. This year's funding is at a level with insufficient funds to do something in every area.
5. Cities and Boroughs are not contributing.
6. Not always going to have this money unless specifically set aside for a grooming pool out of the grant budget/funds.

Web Page Development

Board will be providing input on web pages. Web pages will be used for advertising, awarded grants, grant project information, project schedules, contact info, project maps and locations of past grant projects. This will give public awareness as to how registration dollars are being used.

- Sample grants.
- Identify successful grants with all the elements we are looking for.
- Checklist of what exactly is needed to apply.
- Checklist within the grant application for the grantee to complete for themselves and us.

- Have a central location to see grant project locations and project descriptions and progress statewide.
- State website with map of existing legal trails, proposed trails, plans for improvements, etc.
- Generate public interest in trails with information about recreation areas. Not just popular, but less known areas as well.

Other Issues Discussed

- Application time frames.
- Using a consistent grant cycle.
- Applicants know to get their letters and information together before application comes out.
- Land Access is the most important and time-consuming aspect of the application process.
- What do we do in the future for Pilot Programs?
- First in-person meeting.
- SnowTRAC logo.
- Grantee sign requirements.
- Possible continuation of Grooming Pool Pilot Project.
- Grant processes from application to actual grant awards.
- Discussions of how many applicants are expected to apply this year. Last year the grant period was shorter, usually higher, more grants than money available.

Next Steps

- Working on cleaning up application.
- Re-open grant cycle.
- Close application period the end of July. Have month of August to review, like to leave at least two weeks to go over grants.
- Grants are sent out for the board to review and score. Director then reviews recommendations and awards grants.

Next Meeting

- Most of the first day of the in-person meeting is all administrative issues, board business, ethic video, etc.
- Meeting time is available for discussion of applications, since half the board is new next meeting should be a couple days.
- Samantha will send out a packet for training for scoring grant applications.
- **Next meeting date set for late August.**

Meeting convened at 3:21 p.m.